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November 18 2009 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Non-Quorum November 18, 2009 -

Present: Marlissa Briggett, Stacy Davison, Chair Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Vice Chair Vita Cohen, Jorge Loayza, Judson Pierce, Bill Shea

Open Forum – U.S. Census Bureau representative, Nasad DeJanis, spoke of the importance of having every person counted. The plan is to reach out to every church, school, club, commission and organization to spread the word of why it is so important to return the census. She explained that for many personal reasons some people are fearful to return a census and emphasized that all information is confidential and really is kept private. Chair Minton asked what we could do to help and she requested that we sign a Partnership Agreement, which means we would work in the community to make all citizens aware of the importance of returning the census. Because the HRC did not have a quorum for this meeting, Chair Minton thanked her for all the information that she presented to us and assured her that we will discuss the census at our next monthly meeting on December 16th and will be in touch with her at that time.

Claire Gordon, Vision 20/20 Diversity Task Force and Rev. Christine Elliott, Calvary United Methodist Church, were our other guests this evening who questioned – “what do we want the community to do regarding the recent Rapid Response letter that was mailed to the Network.” Chair Minton explained the purpose of the Rapid Response Network, and that the letter was mailed to make the network aware of the APD graffiti reports that have been happening over the past months. He encouraged them to speak with their organization and church community to also make them aware of the malicious vandalism.

Review of October Minutes – Non quorum

Incidents and Complaints –

Citizen complaint at Mirak Chevrolet – Commissioner Briggett will call the complainant to see if she wants the HRC to follow-up on this matter.

Subcommittee Reports –

Dialogues

The Miller Early Childhood Initiative – though the turnout was a bit disappointing those who came got a lot out of it – consensus was that future programs with young parents should probably be scheduled for a weekend rather than a weeknight.

The Separation of Church and State Dialogue - scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at Robbins Community Room is still a work in progress. Commissioner Sweeney gave an encouraging update on the poster contest on bullying.

Schools – Commissioners Davison and Sweeney plan to speak with the Middle School Principal to ask what we as a commission can do to help with bullying concerns.

Chair Minton reminded the commissioners of how well the HRC worked with the school department in the past and expressed his desire to renew that good working relationship again. He is still waiting for a reply from the superintendent inviting her to come

meet with the commission.

Policies and Procedures – a work in progress

Rapid Response/Publicity – no report this month

Other Business –

- **Martin Luther King** observance donation request for \$50 tabled because of non-quorum
- Still no word on **AHRC vacancy**
- Non-quorum – no vote on **2010 Chair**

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant